

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for extracting a text area from
multi-valued image data, and generating position data
5 of the text area;

color computation means for generating
representative color data of a text portion in the text
area;

generation means for generating text image data
10 expressed by the representative color in the text area;

conversion means for generating non-text
multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued
image data of the text portion using multi-valued image
data of a portion other than the text portion;

15 first compression means for compressing the
non-text multi-valued image data; and

second compression means for compressing the text
image data,

wherein said color computation means generates
20 one representative color data for each text area, and
said generation means comprises means for
binarizing the multi-valued image data in the text area.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
first compression means executes a compression process
25 complying with JPEG compression.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second compression means executes a compression process complying with MMR compression.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising third compression means for coupling the position data, representative color data, and outputs from said first and second compression means, and compressing the coupled data by a reversible compression method.

10 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising inclusive image generation means for generating inclusive image data including a plurality of text areas having similar representative color data, and position data of the inclusive image, and

15 wherein said second compression means compresses the inclusive image data as the text image data.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising inclusive image generation means for generating inclusive image data including a plurality of text areas having similar representative color data, and position data of the inclusive image, and

wherein said second compression means compresses the inclusive image data as the text image data.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said inclusive image generation means includes:

determination means for determining the text areas to be included in the inclusive image on the basis of compression efficiency.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said
5 inclusive image generation means includes:

size computation means for computing a first size obtained upon generating and compressing an inclusive image including first and second text areas, and a second size obtained upon individually compressing the
10 first and second text areas without generating the inclusive image, and

when the first size is smaller than the second size, the inclusive image including the first and second text areas is generated.

9. An image processing apparatus for expanding an
15 image compressed by an image processing apparatus cited in claim 1, comprising:

first expansion means for expanding the non-text multi-valued image data compressed by said first
20 compression means;

second expansion means for expanding the text image data compressed by said second compression means; and

image combining means for receiving the position
25 data and representative color data, and generating the multi-valued image data on the basis of the text image data and non-text multi-valued image data.

10. An image processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

5 color computation means for generating representative color data of a text portion in the text area;

generation means for generating text image data expressed by the representative color in the text area;

10 conversion means for generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the text portion;

first compression means for compressing the
15 non-text multi-valued image data;

second compression means for compressing the text image data; and

resolution conversion means for generating reduced non-text multi-valued image data by lowering a
20 resolution of the non-text multi-valued image data, and

wherein said first compression means compresses the reduced non-text multi-valued image data.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising control means for controlling a resolution
25 conversion parameter in said resolution conversion means.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means controls upon computing orthogonal transforms of the non-text multi-valued image data the resolution conversion parameter to convert the non-text multi-valued image data which has a small high-frequency component to have a lower resolution than the non-text multi-valued image data having a large high-frequency component.

13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means applies a differential filter to the non-text multi-valued image data, and controls the resolution conversion parameter to convert the non-text multi-valued image data which has a small total of absolute values to have a lower resolution than the non-text multi-valued image data having a large total of absolute values.

14. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said first compression means executes a compression process complying with JPEG compression.

15. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second compression means executes a compression process complying with MMR compression.

16. The apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising third compression means for coupling the position data, representative color data, and outputs from said first and second compression means, and

compressing the coupled data by a reversible
compression method.

17. The apparatus according to claim 10, further
comprising inclusive image generation means for
5 generating inclusive image data including a plurality
of text areas having similar representative color data,
and position data of the inclusive image, and

wherein said second compression means compresses
the inclusive image data as the text image data.

10 18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said
inclusive image generation means includes:

determination means for determining the text
areas to be included in the inclusive image on the
basis of compression efficiency.

15 19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said
inclusive image generation means includes:

size computation means for computing a first size
obtained upon generating and compressing an inclusive
image including first and second text areas, and a
20 second size obtained upon individually compressing the
first and second text areas without generating the
inclusive image, and

when the first size is smaller than the second
size, the inclusive image including the first and
25 second text areas is generated.

20. An image processing apparatus for expanding an image compressed by an image processing apparatus cited in claim 10, comprising:

first expansion means for expanding the non-text multi-valued image data compressed by said first compression means;

second expansion means for expanding the text image data compressed by said second compression means; and

image combining means for receiving the position data and representative color data, and generating the multi-valued image data on the basis of the text image data and non-text multi-valued image data.

21. An image processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

color computation means for generating representative color data of a text portion in the text area;

generation means for generating text image data expressed by the representative color in the text area;

conversion means for generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the text portion;

first compression means for compressing the
non-text multi-valued image data; and

second compression means for compressing the text
image data

5 wherein said color computation means includes:

color palette generation means for generating at
least one color palette as the representative color
data by executing a color reduction process of a text
image in the text area, and

10 said generation means includes:

color-reduced image generation means for
generating color-reduced image data corresponding to
the color palette.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said
15 color-reduced image generation means

outputs binary image data of the text area as the
reduced-image data for the text area in which the
number of palettes generated by said color palette
generation means is 1, and

20 generates as the reduced-image data (n+1)-valued
image data (n is a natural number not less than 2)
indicating correspondence between respective pixels,
and color palettes or a non-text image portion for the
text area in which the number of palettes generated by
25 said color palette generation means is n.

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said
second compression means uses different compression

methods for the binary image data and (n+1)-valued image data.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said second compression means executes a compression process
5 complying with MMR compression for the binary image data, and executes compression process complying with ZIP compression for the (n+1)-valued image data.

25. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said first compression means executes a compression process
10 complying with JPEG compression.

26. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said second compression means executes a compression process complying with MMR compression.

27. The apparatus according to claim 21, further
15 comprising third compression means for coupling the position data, representative color data, and outputs from said first and second compression means, and compressing the coupled data by a reversible compression method.

28. The apparatus according to claim 21, further
20 comprising reduced-image segmentation means for generating binary image data for each color palette from the reduced-image data in one text area in which a plurality of color palettes are generated, and

25 wherein said second compression means compresses the binary image data for respective color palettes,

which are generated by said reduced-image segmentation means.

29. The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

5 reduced-image segmentation means for generating new text areas including binary text image data for respective color palettes from the reduced-image data in one text area in which a plurality of color palettes are generated; and

10 inclusive image generation means for generating inclusive image data including a plurality of text areas having similar color palettes, and position data of the inclusive image, and

15 wherein said second compression means compresses the inclusive image data as the text image data.

30. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said inclusive image generation means includes:

20 determination means for determining the text areas to be included in the inclusive image on the basis of compression efficiency.

31. The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said inclusive image generation means includes:

25 size computation means for computing a first size obtained upon generating and compressing an inclusive image including first and second text areas, and a second size obtained upon individually compressing the

first and second text areas without generating the inclusive image, and

when the first size is smaller than the second size, the inclusive image including the first and
5 second text areas is generated.

32. An image processing apparatus for expanding an image compressed by an image processing apparatus cited in claim 21, comprising:

first expansion means for expanding the non-text
10 multi-valued image data compressed by said first compression means;

second expansion means for expanding the text image data compressed by said second compression means;
and

15 image combining means for receiving the position data and representative color data, and generating the multi-valued image data on the basis of the text image data and non-text multi-valued image data.

33. An image processing apparatus comprising:

20 extraction means for extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

color computation means for generating representative color data of a text portion in the text
25 area;

generation means for generating text image data expressed by the representative color in the text area;

conversion means for generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the text portion;

5 first compression means for compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

second compression means for compressing the text image data,

wherein said generation means includes

10 binarization means for applying a differential filter to the multi-valued image data, computing edge amounts of pixels that form the multi-valued image with neighboring pixels, and binarizing the data on the basis of the edge amounts.

15 34. The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said first compression means executes a compression process complying with JPEG compression.

35. The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said second compression means executes a compression process
20 complying with MMR compression.

36. The apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising third compression means for coupling the position data, representative color data, and outputs from said first and second compression means, and
25 compressing the coupled data by a reversible compression method.

37. The apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising inclusive image generation means for generating inclusive image data including a plurality of text areas having similar representative color data, and position data of the inclusive image, and

wherein said second compression means compresses the inclusive image data as the text image data.

38. The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said inclusive image generation means includes:

10 determination means for determining the text
areas to be included in the inclusive image on the
basis of compression efficiency.

39. The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said inclusive image generation means includes:

15 size computation means for computing a first size
obtained upon generating and compressing an inclusive
image including first and second text areas, and a
second size obtained upon individually compressing the
first and second text areas without generating the
20 inclusive image, and

when the first size is smaller than the second size, the inclusive image including the first and second text areas is generated.

40. An image processing apparatus for expanding an
25 image compressed by an image processing apparatus cited
in claim 33, comprising:

first expansion means for expanding the non-text multi-valued image data compressed by said first compression means;

second expansion means for expanding the text
5 image data compressed by said second compression means;
and

image combining means for receiving the position data and representative color data, and generating the multi-valued image data on the basis of the text image
10 data and non-text multi-valued image data.

41. An image processing apparatus comprising:

extraction means for extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

15 color computation means for generating representative color data of a text portion in the text area;

generation means for generating text image data expressed by the representative color in the text area;

20 conversion means for generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the text portion;

first compression means for compressing the
25 non-text multi-valued image data; and

second compression means for compressing the text image data,

generating inclusive image data including a plurality of text areas having similar representative color data, and position data of the inclusive image, and

wherein said second compression means compresses
5 the inclusive image data as the text image data.

46. The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said inclusive image generation means includes:

determination means for determining the text areas to be included in the inclusive image on the
10 basis of compression efficiency.

47. The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said inclusive image generation means includes:

size computation means for computing a first size obtained upon generating and compressing an inclusive
15 image including first and second text areas, and a second size obtained upon individually compressing the first and second text areas without generating the inclusive image, and

when the first size is smaller than the second
20 size, the inclusive image including the first and second text areas is generated.

48. An image processing apparatus for expanding an image compressed by an image processing apparatus cited in claim 41, comprising:

25 first expansion means for expanding the non-text multi-valued image data compressed by said first compression means;

second expansion means for expanding the text
image data compressed by said second compression means;
and

image combining means for receiving the position
5 data and representative color data, and generating the
multi-valued image data on the basis of the text image
data and non-text multi-valued image data.

49. An image processing method comprising:

an extraction step of extracting a text area from
10 multi-valued image data, and generating position data
of the text area;

a color computation step of generating one
representative text color data of a text portion for
each text area;

15 a generation step of generating text image data
by binarizing the multi-valued image data in the text
area;

a conversion step of generating non-text
multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued
20 image data of the text portion using multi-valued image
data of a portion other than the text portion;

a first compression step of compressing the
non-text multi-valued image data; and

a second compression step of compressing the text
25 image data.

50. An image processing method comprising:

an extraction step of extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

a color computation step of generating
5 representative text color data for each text area;

a generation step of generating text image data in the text area;

a conversion step of generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued
10 image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the text portion;

a resolution conversion step of generating reduced non-text multi-valued image data by lowering a resolution of the non-text multi-valued image data;

15 a first compression step of compressing the reduced non-text multi-valued image data; and

a second compression step of compressing the text image data.

51. An image processing method comprising:

20 an extraction step of extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

a color palette generation step of generating at least one color palette by executing a color reduction
25 process of a text image in the text area;

a generation step of generating color-reduced text image data corresponding to the color palette;

a conversion step of generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the text portion;

5 a first compression step of compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

a second compression step of compressing the text image data.

52. An image processing method comprising:

10 an extraction step of extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

a color computation step of generating representative text color data of a text portion for

15 each text area;

a generation step of generating text image data;

a conversion step of generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the text portion;

20

a first compression step of compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

a second compression step of compressing the text image data.

25 wherein said generation step includes binarization step of applying a differential filter to the multi-valued image data, computing edge amounts of

pixels that form the multi-valued image with neighboring pixels, and binarizing the data on the basis of the edge amounts.

53. An image processing method comprising:

5 an extraction step of extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

10 a color computation step of generating one representative text color data of a text portion for each text area;

a generation step of generating text image data by binarizing the multi-valued image data in the text area;

15 a segmentation step of segmenting the multi-valued image into blocks each having a predetermined size; and

a discrimination step of discriminating if each of the blocks segmented includes a text portion;

20 a conversion step of computing an average value of colors of a portion other than the text portion in the block of interest and converting the multi-value image data of the text portion by using the computed average color value, when said discrimination means discriminates that the block of interest includes a
25 text portion;

a first compression step of compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

a second compression step of compressing the text image data.

54. A computer readable memory that stores a compression program for compressing multi-valued image data,

said compression program comprising:

a code of an extraction step of extracting a text area from multi-valued image data, and generating position data of the text area;

10 a code of a color computation step of generating one representative text color data of a text portion for each text area;

a code of a generation step of generating text image data by binarizing the multi-valued image data in
15 the text area;

a code of a conversion step of generating non-text multi-valued image data by converting multi-valued image data of the text portion using multi-valued image data of a portion other than the
20 text portion;

a code of a first compression step of compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

a code of a second compression step of compressing the text image data.

25 55. A computer readable memory that stores a compression program for compressing multi-valued image data,


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        a code of an extraction step of extracting a text
area from multi-valued image data, and generating
position data of the text area;

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a code of a color palette generation step of
5 generating at least one color palette by executing a
color reduction process of a text image in the text
area;

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        a code of a generation step of generating
        color-reduced text image data corresponding to the
10    color palette;

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        a code of a conversion step of generating
        non-text multi-valued image data by converting
        multi-valued image data of the text portion using
        multi-valued image data of a portion other than the
15  text portion;

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a code of a first compression step of compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

a code of a second compression step of compressing the text image data.

20 57. A computer readable memory that stores a
compression program for compressing multi-valued image
data,

said compression program comprising:

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        a code of an extraction step of extracting a text
25  area from multi-valued image data, and generating
    position data of the text area;

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        a code of a color computation step of generating
representative text color data of a text portion for
each text area;

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    a code of a generation step of generating text
5  image data;

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        a code of a conversion step of generating
        non-text multi-valued image data by converting
        multi-valued image data of the text portion using
        multi-valued image data of a portion other than the
10  text portion;

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a code of a first compression step of compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

a code of a second compression step of compressing the text image data.

15 wherein said generation step includes
binarization step of applying a differential filter to
the multi-valued image data, computing edge amounts of
pixels that form the multi-valued image with
neighboring pixels, and binarizing the data on the
20 basis of the edge amounts.

58. A computer readable memory that stores a compression program for compressing multi-valued image data,

said compression program comprising:

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25         a code of an extraction step of extracting a text
        area from multi-valued image data, and generating
        position data of the text area;

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a code of a color computation step of generating one representative text color data of a text portion for each text area;

5 a code of a generation step of generating text image data by binarizing the multi-valued image data in the text area;

a code of a segmentation step of segmenting the multi-valued image into blocks each having a predetermined size; and

10 a code of a discrimination step of discriminating if each of the blocks segmented includes a text portion;

15 a code of a conversion step of computing an average value of colors of a portion other than the text portion in the block of interest and converting the multi-value image data of the text portion by using the computed average color value, when said discrimination means discriminates that the block of interest includes a text portion;

20 a code of a first compression step of compressing the non-text multi-valued image data; and

a code of a second compression step of compressing the text image data.